



Keystone Ferry Terminal Project Update



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR KEYSTONE-PORT TOWNSEND FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON HOLD



Washington State Ferries (WSF) began an environmental review process in Fall 2003 to examine potential alternatives to improve the Keystone and Port Townsend Ferry Terminals. The process involved an analysis of all alternatives including studies of Keystone Harbor and Terminal and identification of potential sites for a new terminal outside the harbor.

The project received nearly 250 comments during the public scoping period and public meetings held in December 2003. These comments highlighted the importance of wildlife, vegetation, Crockett Lake, parks and recreation, vessel type on the route, and local traffic and vehicle holding, among other topics.

LEGISLATURE ASKS FOR STUDY AND APPOINTS CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP

In response to public concern over the possibility of relocating the Keystone Terminal outside of the existing Keystone Harbor, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation that halted work on the environmental review process in March 2004. As part of this legislation, the Washington State Legislature:

- ▶ Allocated \$1 million to WSF to conduct an analysis of Keystone Harbor
- ▶ Designated a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Secretary's designee to help guide the analysis
- ▶ Directed the membership of the CAG to be:
 - One WSF ferry pilot
 - Two members of the traveling public that use the route on a regular basis
 - One tug boat pilot
- ▶ Required the CAG and WSDOT Secretary's designee to meet at least three times, with the first meeting occurring prior to any technical analysis
- ▶ Set a deadline of December 1, 2004 to report back to the Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC)
- ▶ Directed the technical analysis at a minimum to study:
 - Costs and benefits associated with maintaining and relocating the terminal, including enlarging the terminal and dredging
 - Ridership projections associated with preserving and maintaining the terminal

- Maintaining and retrofitting vessels so they can serve the existing terminal
- Coordinating the impact of vehicles using the ferry run with highway capacity
- How many, if any, new vessels should be constructed
- The impact on the environment

- ▶ Directed the report to the LTC to include alternatives to relocating the Keystone Terminal

This summer and fall, WSF will work on the technical analysis and preparation of a report on the viability of Keystone Harbor. This report will be delivered to the LTC on December 1, 2004. As directed by the Washington State Legislature, the CAG is advising WSF on the studies and development of the report.



MEET THE KEYSTONE CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP



Seated left to right: Mayor Nancy Conard, Capt. Tim McGuire, Forest Shomer, Doug Playter (CH2M Hill), Dana Moreland (WSF Keystone Project Manager), Paula Hammond (WSDOT Liaison), (CAG member Clark Jennison not pictured).



Captain Tim McGuire

WSF Ferry Pilot on Keystone-Port Townsend Route

Tim hopes the project's end result will be safe and reliable service. As a captain who guides ferries in and out of Keystone Harbor daily, safety is his paramount concern.

Mayor Nancy Conard

User of Keystone-Port Townsend Route, Mayor of Coupeville

Nancy is interested in ferry issues that affect Coupeville. She believes the CAG is a creative process and sees it as a great opportunity from both a local and statewide perspective.

Captain Clark Jennison

Tug Boat Pilot

Clark rides the ferries often, and as a captain himself, wonders how ferries can get into and out of Keystone Harbor safely. He is interested in vessel capacity, and wants to explore how ferry loading and vehicle waiting can be improved.

Forest Shomer

User of Keystone-Port Townsend Route, resident of Port Townsend

Forest is a frequent vehicle and foot passenger on the Keystone-Port Townsend ferry, and as a naturalist, is aware of the environment in and around Keystone Harbor. He hopes to find a solution to keep the unique shoreline of Keystone Spit ecologically intact.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CAG MEETING SCHEDULE

August 26 - Thursday

5:30 to 8:45 p.m. - Coupeville Rec Hall

October 13 - Wednesday

5:30 to 8:45 p.m. - Camp Casey Conference Center

September 30 - Thursday

5:30 to 8:45 p.m. - Coupeville Rec Hall

October 28 - Thursday

5:30 to 8:45 p.m. - Coupeville Rec Hall

The public is welcome to attend and give comments to the CAG at the conclusion of each meeting.

Agendas will be posted on the project website prior to each meeting:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/improvement_projects/ptkey/

WHAT WILL BE EXAMINED?

The study report that WSF gives to the Legislative Transportation Committee on December 1, 2004 will include technical reports on ridership, environmental impacts, vessel options, harbor options, and traffic studies. WSF will study combinations of vessel and harbor configuration options to assess the viability of the existing Keystone Harbor. The study will explore a variety of vessels and will examine the impacts, costs and benefits of each harbor/vessel combination. Options for reconfiguring Keystone Harbor and Terminal will be part of the analysis.

**WHAT ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE KEYSTONE HARBOR STUDY?**

WSF, in consultation with the CAG, has developed a wide range of study questions that will be answered in the course of the technical studies. These questions include:

- For each vessel type, how will ferry traffic impact SR 20, SR 525 and Coupeville?

- What are the maintenance, operation and preservation costs for each vessel type?
- What are the approximate design and construction costs of any new vessels?
- What are the costs and benefits of each harbor/vessel combination to Keystone, Port Townsend and the rest of the state ferry system?
- What are the impacts to state park and recreational users?
- How can safety be improved?
- What are the impacts to habitat and aquatic resources, such as Crockett Lake?

KEYSTONE HARBOR MODEL

To help inform the technical studies, a physical model of Keystone Harbor is being built by Oregon State University. The model will be used to simulate each of the harbor options, and will model wave action and currents that affect both the vessel and shoreline. This physical model is used to calibrate the computer model to provide the most accurate evaluation of each harbor option. Together, the physical and computer models help the study team analyze the impact of each vessel/harbor combination on the underwater environment and the Keystone Spit.

Information on the study, including the vessel and harbor options, is available at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/improvement_projects/ptkey/

2004 KEYSTONE HARBOR STUDY TIMELINE**JUNE**

CAG Meeting: June 7
June 24

JULY

Oregon State University begins construction of the Keystone Harbor model. WSF begins technical studies.

AUGUST

CAG Meeting: August 26
Technical studies underway

SEPTEMBER

CAG Meeting: September 30
Technical studies underway

OCTOBER

CAG Meeting: October 13
October 28
Technical studies underway

DECEMBER

WSF delivers report to LTC
(due December 1, 2004)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GIVE INPUT TO THE CAG**Contact:**

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Visit: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/improvement_projects/ptkey/

* A decision on how to proceed with the project is expected by the end of the next legislative session, in Spring 2005.



WSF Keystone Citizen Advisory Group
C/O Joy Goldenberg
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Seattle, WA 98121-1012

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN
KEYSTONE HARBOR?

COME TO THE NEXT CAG MEETING:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26
5:30-8:45 P.M.
COUPEVILLE REC HALL
901 ALEXANDER STREET
COUPEVILLE



WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES
KEYSTONE CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
AUGUST 2004 UPDATE

Come to the next CAG meeting:

Thursday, August 26
5:30-8:45 p.m.
Coupeville Rec Hall
901 Alexander Street, Coupeville

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Information: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Joy Goldenberg at (206) 515-3411 / goldenj@wsdot.wa.gov. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call WA State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 711.

Title VI: WSDOT assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex in the provision of benefits and services. For language interpretation services please contact WSDOT at (206) 515-3411. It is necessary to speak limited English so that your request can be appropriately responded to. For information on WSDOT's Title VI Program, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.